

### --- “Series of 1883” - Five Pounds - Blue - COUPON Stamps ---

Chris Ryan in the “Canadian Revenue Newsletter”, No. 41, of March 2003, reports that the 5 pound coupon stamp was not added to the “Series of 1883” until 1888. Thus there were no *block watermarked* five pound blue stamps.

Purely as an aside it can be noted, that there are no 5 pound, 35 pound or 100 pound 1883 Coupon stamps that carry the 5 mm. *Gothic violet control numbering*. The 5 pound stamp dates from 1888, while the other two date from 1885. This pretty well positions the *violet control numbered* stamps in the 1883-84 era. I feel that these stamps were either prepared for a philatelic exhibition in 1884, or were prepared as “presentation” sets for prominent philatelists. At that time it was illegal to possess unused ‘genuine’ tax-paid stamps.

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The catalogue lists the recess printed five pound blue “Series of 1883” COUPON stamps as follows:

- RM-290** - 5 pounds, blue, perf 12, on *unwmkd vertical* mesh wove, 4 mm. red controls, *long wreath*, with nine ½ pound coupons and an **188**\_ stub
- RM-290** - 5 pounds, blue, perf 12, on *unwmkd horizontal* mesh wove, 4 mm. red controls, *long wreath*, with nine ½ pound coupons and an **188**\_ stub
- RM-291** - 5 pounds, blue, perf 12, on *unwmkd horizontal* mesh wove, 5 mm. red controls, *long wreath*, with nine ½ pound coupons and an **188**\_ stub
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|--------------------------------------|---|
| <b>4th BABN Contract</b> (1886-1892) | John McKay records as ‘delivered’ 13,900 copies of “5 lb. Blue Coupon” stamps; printed by hand press. |
| <b>5th BABN Contract</b> (1892-1897) | John McKay records as ‘delivered’ 30,200 copies of “5 lb. Blue Coupon” stamps; printed by hand press. |
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### --- The “theoretical” control number range on the 5 pound blue Coupon stamp ---

<b>4th BABN Contract</b> - (1886-1892)	13,900	- <b>000001</b> to <b>013900</b>
<b>5th BABN Contract</b> - (1892-1897)	<u>30,200</u>	- <b>013901</b> to <b>044100</b>
	44,100	

### --- The “actual” control number range on the 5 pound blue Coupon stamp, as recorded to date ---

- |  |                                  |
|--|----------------------------------|
| 5 pounds, blue, on <i>unwmkd</i> wove, with 4 mm. controls | - <b>000524</b> to <b>007252</b> |
| 5 pounds, blue, on <i>unwmkd</i> wove, with 5 mm. controls | - <b>040083</b> a single copy    |
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The original five pound strips were printed on *unwmkd vertical* mesh paper, and finally with *unwmkd horizontal* mesh wove. It is probable, since all examples have stubs dated **188**\_, that there was only a single printing, and that the *unlisted* 5 mm. Ottawa control numbered **RM-291** was made using remnant stamps from BABN stock after their 1887 return to Ottawa.

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--- RM-290 - Five Pounds - “Series of 1883” - 4th BABN Contract - 1888-92 ---

--- Recess printed on *unwmkd vertical* mesh wove - with 4 mm. Montreal red control numbers ---

--- Perf 12 - 115 x 62 mm. plus nine ½ pound coupons, and an 188\_ stub - scanned at 70% scale ---

--- With the *long wreath* around the Queen’s portrait - scanned at 200% scale ---



The catalogue lists this recess printed five pound blue “Series of 1883” COUPON stamp as follows:

RM-290 - 5 pounds, blue, perf 12, on *unwmkd vertical* mesh wove, 4 mm. red controls,  
*long wreath*, with nine ½ pound coupons and an 188\_ stub

--- The “theoretical” control number range on this 5 pound blue Coupon stamp ---

4th BABN Contract - (1886-1892)

13,900

- 000001 to 005770 - to date



★RM-290 CP - 5 pounds, blue, perf 12, CWCS, on *unwmkd vertical* mesh wove, with 4 mm. control number 000558,  
with nine 1/2 pound coupons, and an 188\_ stub - stamped CANCELLED in 3 mm. Gothic

000524

RM-290

5 pounds, blue, perf 12, CWC, on *unwmkd vertical* mesh wove

000538

RM-290

5 pounds, blue, perf 12, CWCS, on *unwmkd vertical* mesh wove  
stub dated 188\_

000558 ★

RM-290 CP

5 pounds, blue, perf 12, CWCS, on *unwmkd vertical* mesh wove  
stub dated 188\_ - stamped CANCELLED in 3 mm. Gothic

005770

RM-290

5 pounds, blue, perf 12, on *unwmkd vertical* mesh wove

--- RM-290 - Five Pounds - “Series of 1883” - Blue - 4th BABN Contract - 1886-92 ---

--- Recess printed on *unwmkd* horizontal mesh wove - with 4 mm. Montreal red control numbers ---

--- Perf 12 - 115 x 62 mm. plus nine ½ pound coupons, and an 188\_ stub - scanned at 70% scale ---

--- With the long wreath around the Queen’s portrait ---

Still under the 4th BABN Contract, the *unwmkd* paper has changed from a vertical to a horizontal mesh. BABN apparently used a very poor grade of paper for printing the blue coupon “Customs” stamps.

The catalogue lists this recess printed five pound blue “Series of 1883” COUPON stamp as follows:

RM-290 - 5 pounds, blue, perf 12, on *unwmkd* horizontal mesh wove, 4 mm. red controls,  
*long wreath*, with nine ½ pound coupons and an 188\_ stub

--- The “theoretical” control number range on this 5 pound blue Coupon stamp ---

4th BABN Contract - (1886-1892)

13,900

to date - 006103 to 013900



★RM-290 - 5 pounds, blue, perf 12, CWCS, on *unwmkd* horizontal mesh wove, with 4 mm. control number 006196,  
with nine ½ pound coupons, and an 188\_ stub

006103	RM-290 CP	5 pounds, blue, perf 12, CWC, on <i>unwmkd</i> horizontal mesh wove, stamped <b>CANCELLED</b> in 3 mm. violet Gothic
006104★	RM-290	5 pounds, blue, perf 12, CWC, on <i>unwmkd</i> horizontal mesh wove
006196★	RM-290	5 pounds, blue, perf 12, CWCS, on <i>unwmkd</i> horizontal mesh wove with the stub dated 188_
007252	RM-290a	5 pounds, blue, perf 12, CWC, on <i>unwmkd</i> horizontal mesh wove

--- RM-291 - Five Pounds - “Series of 1883” - Blue - 5th BABN Contract - 1892-97 ---

--- Recess printed on *unwmkd horizontal* mesh wove - with 5 mm. control numbers ---

--- Perf 12 - 115 x 62 mm. plus nine ½ pound coupons, and an 188\_ stub - scanned at 70% scale ---

--- With the long wreath around the Queen’s portrait ---

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It is probable, since all examples have stubs dated 188\_, that there was only a single printing, and that the *unlisted* 5 mm. Ottawa control numbered **RM-291** was made using remnant stamps from BABN stock after their 1887 return to Ottawa.

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The catalogue lists the recess printed five pound blue “Series of 1883” COUPON stamps as follows:

**RM-291** - 5 pounds, blue, perf 12, on *unwmkd horizontal* mesh wove, 5 mm. red controls,  
*long wreath*, with nine ½ pound coupons and an 188\_ stub

--- The “theoretical” control number range on this 5 pound blue Coupon stamp ---

5th BABN Contract - (1892-1897)	30,200	- 013901 to 044100
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In 1883 the excise duty on manufactured tobacco was raised to 12¢ per pound, and for the first time a distinction was made for snuff. The *under 40% moisture* snuff was taxed at the same 12¢ rate, but if it was *over 40% moisture* the tax was only 8¢ per pound. Since the collector added the manuscript *Snuff* on the above stamp, one would suppose that the package was being taxed at the lower 8¢ rate.



★ **RM-291** - 5 pounds, blue, perf 12, on *unwmkd horizontal* mesh wove, with 5 mm. control number **040083**,  
manuscript *Snuff* in red ink - roller cancelled **CUSTOMS / NELSON, B.C. / TOBACCO**

<b>040083</b> ★	RM-291	5 pounds, blue, perf 12, on <i>unwmkd horizontal</i> mesh wove, manuscript <i>Snuff</i> , rolled <b>CUSTOMS / NELSON, B.C. / TOBACCO</b>
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